

De Michelis says Thatcher uncharitable

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said British charged that Europe has done too little to support Gulf forces were "unjustified and uncharitable" and he backed a U.S. call for allies to help pay for the effort. "Europe must do its part, in economic terms, to help those countries which are paying for the political decision of the embargo (against Iraq) and the economic and political isolation of Saddam Hussein," he told reporters after a cabinet meeting. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Thursday criticised most European allies for doing too little to back the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf with arms or money. But de Michelis dismissed her comments: "To us, as Italy and as the president of the EC (European Community), Mrs. Thatcher's criticisms seem unjustified and uncharitable." He said the EC and other European organisations had "moved with efficiency and clarity of purpose" since the Gulf crisis began with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Italy has sent three ships to help the Gulf effort.



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Qasem receives Soviet message

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday received a message from his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze dealing with Jordan's efforts to contain the Gulf crisis. Shevardnadze voiced his conviction that the active and tireless efforts made by Jordan, in cooperation with other Arab countries, could contribute to finding a peaceful settlement to the explosive situation in the Gulf. The Soviet foreign minister underlined the importance of uniting Arab efforts to contain the crisis, and pledged his country's support for the peaceful efforts.

Jordan denies Israeli report

AMMAN (Petra) — An official military spokesman denied Friday a report by Reuters news agency quoting an Israeli military source as alleging that Jordan was sending reconnaissance planes over Saudi Arabia to work for Iraq, by monitoring the moves of Arab and foreign forces deployed there. The Jordanian source also denied what the Israeli source said that the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) has increased reconnaissance flights on its borders and said no change has taken place on the activities of RJAF.

Jackson meets with Iraqi leaders

NICOSIA (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson met Thursday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to discuss the Gulf crisis, officials said. Jackson, who flew to Iraq for the U.S. television show "Inside Edition," met first with Aziz, who explained to him the reasons behind Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, said the Iraqi News Agency. "Aziz explained Iraq's historical and legitimate rights in Kuwait and President Saddam Hussein's initiative on 12th August as being the sound foundation for reaching just and equitable solutions for all issues from which the region suffers, particularly the suffering of the Palestinian people," INA said. Later, a government spokesman said the U.S. civil rights leader met with Saddam. No details of that meeting were released immediately.

Pakistani troops leave for S. Arabia today

KARACHI (R) — An initial 2,000 Pakistani troops leave for Saudi Arabia Saturday to join a multinational force. Interim Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said Friday the 2,000 men and other 3,000 troops from an infantry brigade would join Egyptian soldiers as part of a pan-Islamic force. Jatoi has been strongly criticised in Pakistan for caving in to pressure from the United States and agreeing to send Pakistan troops to Saudi Arabia. U.S. troops form the bulk of the multinational force.

U.N. panel votes for continued scrutiny of Iran situation

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations panel has voted to continue scrutiny of Iran's human rights situation, saying there has been a deterioration since a U.N.-appointed investigator visited the country in January. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, made up of independent experts from 26 countries, adopted a resolution Thursday night asking the full U.N. Human Rights Commission to take up Iran's case again at its annual session next January.

EC to limit travel of Iraqi diplomats

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) countries plan to limit the travel of Iraqi diplomats within the trade bloc, but will postpone the official announcement until foreign women and children are released from Iraq, an EC official said Friday. The 12 community nations reached "an agreement in principle" on their plan after consultations among the EC member capitals, said the official.

Perez de Cuellar, Aziz take 'important step forward'

U.N. chief, Iraqi minister hold two rounds of talks, schedule another session after experts meet today

By Ghadeer Taher
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches*

AMMAN — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz held rounds of talks aimed at finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis and scheduled another session after experts from both sides meet.

Perez de Cuellar and Aziz said they discussed all aspects of the Gulf crisis and agreed that the situation was very tense and that all possible efforts should be exerted to defuse the crisis.

Aziz told journalists at the steps of the Royal Palace that he had informed the U.N. chief that Iraq would "never initiate a military conflict in its region" and blamed the American and Western military deployment in the Gulf for making the situation "explosive."

"This situation is not Iraq's responsibility," Aziz added.

He said a solution to the crisis had to be in an Arab framework.

Iraq is searching for all ways and means to calm the situation," he said. "The crisis in the Gulf should be dealt within an Arab context... an Arab solution."

The secretary general described the three-hour-and-10-minute meeting as an "important step forward," but said: "You cannot solve a complicated problem in four, five or six hours."

The secretary general and Aziz will meet Saturday after experts from both sides meet.

"I was very much interested in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 667, 662 and 664," Perez de Cuellar said. "I consider the Iraqi initiative an important step forward but as I see it is insufficient... I wish other initiatives would follow which would secure the departure of all foreigners from Iraq."

Aziz, reiterating Baghdad's position on foreigners held back in Iraq as a "deterrent against a potential U.S. attack," said: "I asked the secretary general if he could get guarantee from countries who have forces in the re-

gion that they would not attack Iraq. If we get these guarantees the problem of all foreigners would be resolved."

Aziz renewed Iraq's call for a comprehensive solution to all outstanding issues in the Middle East, including the Palestinian and Lebanese problems. "These issues could be and should be discussed on common principles and standards," he said. "There should be no double standards.

Concentrating only on one issue does not resolve the problem of the region."

Asked what Iraq's position was on Kuwait, Aziz said: "No comment" in a marked departure from earlier statements that the status of Kuwait, which Iraq has declared as its 19th province, was not subject to any negotiation.

Asked about the foreign minister's linkage of the conflicts in the Middle East, Perez de Cuellar said: "I would be very happy if all decisions of the Security Council are implemented." The secretary general said he was looking for-

ward to meeting His Majesty King Hussein after he ends his current trip "so I can get his evaluation of the situation so that I can add to his efforts to help achieve a just peace in the area."

In answer to a question about American warships stopping ships in the Gulf of Aqaba despite the fact that Jordan is not a party in the conflict, Perez de Cuellar said this measure "is probably being implemented within the framework of Security Council Resolution 667 but... I cannot comment on Security Council resolutions."

An Iraqi official denied a report carried by French radio that the U.N. chief had served an ultimatum from U.S. President George Bush to Iraq during Friday's meeting. The official said no such warning was delivered. The radio had said the ultimatum gave three days to Iraq to leave Kuwait.

Earlier, Perez de Cuellar and Aziz met for two hours in a

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Gorbachev:
Gulf
build-up
very
dangerous'

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev warned Friday that the military buildup in the Gulf "makes the situation explosive, very dangerous."

"We have to act responsibly, all of us, to prevent a large scale conflict," Gorbachev told a rare news conference in Moscow.

Gorbachev did not specifically criticise the United States, which is committed to send up to 250,000 troops to Saudi Arabia. But he urged a diplomatic rather than a military solution to the conflict that began with the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

The U.S. deployment in Saudi Arabia was permissible under the terms of the United Nations Charter, he said.

An Iraqi embassy spokesman in London asked whether there were any restrictions on the free movement of Iraqis in Britain or on their leaving Britain, said Dacourtan.

"As far as I am aware they can leave at any time," he said.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Franco Dacourtan said 13 women and six children, in good health and high spirits, would be flown to Rome Saturday aboard President Francesco Cossiga's plane.

The Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome gave the breakdown as 16 women and three children.

The group left Kuwait several days ago but were held in Baghdad. Exit visas for other Italian women and children left in Iraq were being processed, Dacourtan said.

Gorbachev also strongly criticised Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein for using military forces, rather than diplomacy, in the Gulf.

"Only those who think illogically can reject such a (peaceful) solution," Gorbachev said. "I include the president of Iraq in that number."

He denied assertions by some that the Kremlin preference for a diplomatic rather than a military solution indicated that the Soviet Union was slipping from superpower status.

"Some people think we lose our prestige and reputation. It is not so," he said.

The Middle East conflict marked one of the first times since World War II that the Soviet Union has not acted as an antagonist to the United States during a world crisis, although its support for the United States during the current tension has been lukewarm.

Although the Kremlin halted its arms shipments to Iraq, it has not withdrawn 193 Soviet military specialists and 5,000 construction workers stationed there. It pulled its diplomats out of Kuwait after Iraq ordered foreign governments to close their embassies, while the United States and several other countries have defied Iraq and kept their diplomats in Kuwait.

"Japan's decision to finance the foreign forces threatening Iraq's security... is subject to our surprise and condemnation," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

In a commentary it said was written by a top Iraqi official it added: "What interest has Japan in becoming party to the most dangerous aggression led by the United States which threatens to trigger war in a region that has been and remains its main source of energy?"

The Washington Times Friday

(Continued on page 5)



U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar left (wearing glasses) and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz (second from right) meet in Amman

Friday for talks attended by senior aides (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

King meets Thatcher, says Jordan abides by sanctions

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday and said later Jordan is abiding by United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq after its takeover of Kuwait.

"The government of Jordan makes it very clear that it abides by these United Nations resolutions," King Hussein told reporters after talks with Thatcher.

Government officials quoted by Reuters said the King and Thatcher were "quite far apart in their assessment of the causes of the dispute and ways to resolve it."

But they said the two leaders agreed on the need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"We discussed the present very serious crisis in our part of the world and in our region and we have a better understanding of each other's positions as we are trying to achieve the objective which I have set myself to try to contribute to

world group, to stop the escalation, to stop the danger of an eruption that would have devastating effects on the region and maybe the world," the King told reporters.

Answering another question, he said: "I believe that the government of Jordan has made it very, very clear that it abides by U.N. Security Council resolutions as they are expected and has called for them to be applied in other cases over many years. I mean we cannot contradict ourselves in terms of principles. We stand by them on all issues and for what better you might call here... we took position and we were at the Security Council at that period of time against the acquisition of territory by force."

Asked whether he felt optimistic, the King said: "I believe that we have re-established contact and a helpful dialogue which I hope will continue."

Asked whether he brought any specific proposals, he said: "I do not bring any proposals. I am not a bearer of a peace plan that is associated with my name or that of my country. I am trying within the area to bring many of us together to see what we can do to contribute to

all the resolutions of the problem."

Officials said Thatcher discussed the Gulf crisis with U.S. President George Bush in a 25-minute telephone call before her meeting with King Hussein.

Bush and Thatcher "continue to agree upon everything that is going on," one official said.

Thatcher criticised European allies Thursday, saying they were not doing enough to support U.S. efforts in the Gulf and were relying on Washington to be "the world's policeman."

King Hussein, on an international mission to try to find a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis, said Jordan had called for U.N. resolutions to be applied in many cases over the years.

"We can't contradict ourselves in terms of principles. We stand by them on all issues," the King said.

King Hussein, who has already visited Arab capitals, is due to travel to Paris and Bonn.

King Hussein arrived from Madrid, where he spoke to King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe

(Continued on page 5)

Cairo meeting wants Iraq to leave Kuwait, pay damages

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Arab states opposing Iraq demanded Friday it pull its troops out of Kuwait and pay war damages as conditions for a peace settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Conference sources said an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting decided on a five-point blueprint as a basis for peace.

The ministers repeated the league's demand for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Esam Abdul Meguid said the meetings had ended and that the resolutions would be announced at a press conference Saturday.

No explanation was given for the delay in announcing the resolutions, although Foreign

Ministry sources insisted it was only to allow time for the resolutions to be translated into English and French.

Sources close to the conference, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told news agencies that there were five resolutions which called for the immediate release of all foreign hostages held by Iraq and compensation to be paid to Kuwait for losses resulting from the invasion.

The ministers repeated the league's demand for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The fourth is a reiteration of the league's condemnation of Iraq for the invasion and the fifth is a call for the return of the rule of Kuwait's deposed emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the sources said.

The third resolution calls for the well-being of all civilians and compensating them for any losses.

The fifth is a call for the safety of Arab labourers who should also be guaranteed, they said.

They condemned Iraq's moves against foreign embassies in Kuwait, saying it had no right to move them to

anywhere else, they said.

Only 13 of the league's 21 members attended the emergency meeting and only 10 of them were represented by foreign ministers. This reflects the deep split that Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion

had created in the Arab World.

Kuwaiti State Minister for Cabinet affairs Abdul Rahman Awad told reporters after the conference that five resolutions had been adopted and expressed his satisfaction with them. But he refused to give any details.

Abdul Meguid said Egypt, as the host country, will announce the resolutions at a press conference at 10:00 local time (0700 GMT) Saturday.

The other points in the blueprint were:

— They demanded immediate release of hostages held by Iraq, with no link between any resolution of the Gulf crisis and Westerners being detained in Iraq and Kuwait. The safety of Arab labourers should also be guaranteed, they said.

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Velayati: No obstacles to peace with Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Thursday Tehran saw no obstacles to a peace settlement with Iraq and he was prepared to host his Iraqi counterpart, Tareq Aziz, to hasten the peace process.

"We have repeatedly stressed that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the current Gulf crisis is a separate issue from peace talks between Tehran and Baghdad," Velayati said in a broadcast monitored in Nicosia.

Iraq has condemned Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, but it has welcomed Baghdad's subsequent peace settlement with Iran.

Aziz's visit is believed to pave the way for a face-to-face meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and his Iranian counterpart, Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Saddam earlier this month settled a decade-long border dispute with Iran.

He pulled troops out of Iranian

territory captured in the Gulf war, and initiated an exchange of prisoners of war.

Sadam's sudden peace initiative came at a time of growing confrontation with the U.S.-led multinational forces rushed to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Iraq accepted Iran's terms for a formal end to the war, including a 1975 border treaty which gives Iran the eastern half of Sharq Al Arab river.

Velayati said the dispute over the treaty was the main hurdle in peace talks which followed the August 1988 ceasefire. Iran had informed Iraq that it was ready for a requested visit by Aziz, he added without giving a date.

Teheran radio said 900 Iranian prisoners of war, returned home Thursday, bringing the total number of Iranians and Iraqis repatriated over the past two weeks to over 35,000.

Dali says Yemen not involved in Gulf crisis

ABU DHABI (AP) — Yemen's minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdul Azziz Al Dali complained Thursday of attempts to get his country involved as a party in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Yemen as a brother Arab country was trying to bring all other brethren states out of the crisis which would hurt all of us," Dali told reporters after a meeting with Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed, Foreign Ministry under-secretary in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Sheikh Hamdan is also one of the several sons of the UAE president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan.

Dali denied recent reports about the existence of Iraqi jet fighters in Yemeni airport, saying "there is no justification for the existence of such fighter jets in Yemen."

He also denied other reports saving his country tried to break the economic sanctions against Iraq by an airift, saying that his country "does not have a fleet sufficient enough to conduct such an airift."

"These reports were attempts to defame Yemen's stand and get it involved as a party to the crisis through pressure," the Yemeni minister said.

Dali said he briefed UAE officials

on his country's stand "as we are eager to have our efforts to help brethren countries come out of the crisis correctly understood."

Yemen was among the few Arab states that failed to condemn the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

It did not vote in favour of foreign and Arab forces to Saudi Arabia at the emergency Arab summit hosted by Egypt after the invasion.

The country has also been gripped by demonstrations in support of Iraq and denunciation of the United States and Saudi Arabia.

The demonstrations have been mainly in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa. But others have been reported in the southern port city of Aden and in the mountain city of Taiz.

The demonstrations spread Thursday to Sa'adeh, a province on the borders with Saudi Arabia, according to a report on radio in Sanaa.

Commenting on Yemen's absence from the Arab League foreign ministers meeting under way in Cairo, Dali said his country had wished to see the meeting "delayed to enable us to make more contacts and consultations which would lead to improve the atmosphere."

Herzog seeks to calm fears of Israeli public

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog tried to calm public fears Friday by saying the Iraqi was "not the mighty monster," it was made out to be.

They were responding to an Iraqi air force commander's threat a day earlier of "dealing smashing blows to the nests of the Israeli."

The unidentified commander accused Israel of playing "a hypocritical role" in pushing the situation towards war in the Gulf.

A leading Israeli military analyst said Friday that the latest threat marked an escalation in the war of words with Iraq and called for a reassessment of the dangers facing the Jewish state.

"Up until now, Israel considered an Iraqi attack only a low probability," said Zev Schiff, military writer for the Hebrew daily Haaretz. "The assessment was that Iraq would open another front when faced with the American forces. Now we have to reassess and consider an Iraqi attack on Israel as an act of desperation."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said "any aggressor will live to regret his actions."

Israel has repeatedly proven in the past that it knows how to defend itself and if attacked we will know how to defend ourselves again and any aggressor will live to regret his actions," Shamir said in a statement.

Israel has been restrained in its comments on the Gulf crisis, set off Aug. 2 when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Iraq, S. Arabia shop the world for weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — They carry assault weapons made in the Soviet Union and fight with tanks and artillery from Moscow and Beijing.

The fighter planes overhead may come from France or the Soviet Union. The multipurpose rocket systems and surface-to-surface missiles are made in Brazil. Other weaponry comes from Czechoslovakia, Egypt and South Africa.

Iraq accepted Iran's terms for a formal end to the war, including a 1975 border treaty which gives Iran the eastern half of Sharq Al Arab river.

Velayati said the dispute over the treaty was the main hurdle in peace talks which followed the August 1988 ceasefire. Iran had informed Iraq that it was ready for a requested visit by Aziz, he added without giving a date.

Teheran radio said 900 Iranian prisoners of war, returned home Thursday, bringing the total number of Iranians and Iraqis repatriated over the past two weeks to over 35,000.

The United States and the Soviet Union have accounted for more than 60 per cent of that total weapons trade.

Hoping to rid themselves of dependence on the superpowers, Third World countries have been developing indigenous weapons industries, defence analysts say.

Brazil is able to build its own tanks and fighter planes, and is eager to market them. India builds large warships, artillery and missiles. Countries from Argentina to South Korea, China and South Africa also have home-grown weapons capability.

In 1978-79, the United States and the Soviet Union conducted talks aimed at clamping controls on the spread of new conventional weapons technology, but the discussions broke off after the Soviets' intervention in Afghanistan.

It would be far more difficult for such a bilateral effort to be effective in today's wide-open weapons market.

Musawi predicts moves on European hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — A reputed leader of pro-Iranian kidnappers says that Europeans among the 13 Western hostages held in Lebanon could benefit from recent actions by European governments, the Al Divar newspaper reported Friday.

"Muslim factions concerned with the European and American hostages distinguish between the American and European stands," it quoted Hussein Musawi as saying in an interview.

These factions, "view with satisfaction, although partially, the French stand, which is independent from the American will regarding those imprisoned in France, on the Middle East crisis in general and on the political and military situation arising from the Gulf crisis," Musawi noted.

Iran severed relations with Britain after London refused to halt publication of the book. Rusdi has been in hiding under guard since Khomeini's death threat.

But the British have in recent weeks acknowledged that "The Satanic Verses" could be offensive to Muslims and has been seeking to patch up relations with Iran following Khomeini's death in June last year.

Musawi said that "such stands would undoubtedly be understood" by the kidnappers "as goodwill," gestures by the Europeans...

Musawi, a Shi'ite Muslim, heads a pro-Syrian wing of the fundamentalist Hezbollah (Party of God).

Hizbullah, Iran's closest ally in Lebanon, is believed to be the parent movement for most of the factions holding Western captives — six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans and an Italian.

Three European hostages have been freed in recent weeks. Swiss Red Cross worker Elie Enriquez was freed Aug. 13, his companion Emanuel Christen Aug. 8. They had been kidnapped in South Lebanon Oct. 6, 1989.

Irishman Brian Keenan was released Aug. 24 after nearly 4½ years in captivity.

French President Francois Mitterrand recently released Amis Naccache, a Lebanese who was

Iraq thought we were creating allies, forging relationships on our team in a global bipolar power struggle," said Michael T. Klare, a professor of peace and world security studies at Hampshire College in Massachusetts.

"But that's not what they thought we were doing," said Klare, who wrote a prescient article in May about the emergence of "regional superpowers."

Of the more than \$300 million in arms sold to Third World countries from 1982 through 1989, Saudi Arabia and Iraq received nearly one-third of the total, according to a congressional research service analysis of U.S. intelligence data.

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"Both we (selling to the Saudis) and the Soviets (helping

'Iraq could have the bomb in 2 years'

WASHINGTON (R) — Cable News Network (CNN) has reported that Iraq could build a nuclear bomb in less than two years, much quicker than previously reported by private experts.

According to a soon-to-be-published book by Leonard Spector and Jacqueline Smith of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Iraq has been doing research on uranium enrichment, critical to making fuel for nuclear weapons, at a small Soviet-supplied research reactor outside Baghdad.

Quoting what it called a U.S. intelligence report, CNN said Iraq could "make a bomb in less than two years using the enriched uranium already in its possession."

A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman, Mark Mansfield declined comment on the report, and a State Department official said there were differing views on the status of Iraq's nuclear programme.

Iraq has about 12.5 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium

fuel, supplied by France in 1980, possibly enough for one carefully designed nuclear weapon, nuclear weapons experts said.

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In view of the long lead times it is highly unlikely that Iraq will be able to acquire them before the mid-to-late 1990s," the book concludes.

Iraq's reported effort to obtain nuclear weapons technology was

stimulated by a 1981 Israeli bombing raid that destroyed a large French-supplied research reactor at Osiraq, outside Baghdad.

But early last year the director of U.S. naval intelligence, Rear Admiral Thomas Brooks, said in testimony to Congress that Baghdad was "actively pursuing" a nuclear weapons programme, a charge Iraq denied.

Whatever its intentions, Iraq is a part to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and thus has been subject to periodic on-site inspection of its nuclear facilities and materials by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The most recent safeguard inspection of Iraq's nuclear facilities were carried out last April.

Based on data collected until then, the IAEA concluded "all material under safeguards has been accounted for," according to a statement issued on May 7 in Vienna at the request of Iraq.

In their forthcoming book, "Nuclear Ambitions," Spector and Smith said Iraq's 12.5-kilogram cache of highly enriched uranium fuel represented only half the amount deemed necessary for a crude nuclear weapon under IAEA standards.

"Nonetheless, it could be fabricated into a nuclear weapon if a somewhat more sophisticated design were used employing techniques that have been discussed widely in unclassified sources," they wrote.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Ershad offers to mediate in Gulf crisis

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad offered Friday to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait but only after Baghdad withdrew its forces from the Emirate. He condemned the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion and asked Baghdad to restore the Kuwaiti government.

"I am quite willing to mediate on any disputes that Iraq and Kuwait may have," he told a public rally in the western town of Bhairam. "But such mediation is possible only after Iraq pulls its occupation forces out of Kuwait," Ershad said. Bangladesh, which has 50,000 nationals stranded in the Gulf, had warm relations with Iraq until the invasion. Parliament last week endorsed a government move to send 5,000 troops to join a U.S.-dominated multinational force in Saudi Arabia. The opposition Awami League and several leftist parties have called for an eight-hour general strike on Sept. 3 to protest at the sending of troops. But another major opposition group, the Bangladesh National Party, says it will not take part.

Libya denies involvement in May attack

ROME (AP) — Libya has denied U.S. allegations that it played a role in an aborted attack on Israeli beach resorts. On Monday, the State Department said the Libyan government "proved direct support in all phases of preparation" for the May 30 attack near Tel Aviv. Four Palestinian guerrillas were killed and 12 captured by Israeli forces in the seaborne raid. The official Libyan news agency, monitored in Rome, quoted an unidentified source in the foreign ministry as describing the accusations as "baseless." JANA said Libya had previously denied any involvement. The Libyan source was quoted as saying the U.S. statement was timed to divert attention from the situation in the Gulf. "The aim behind it is to draw the eyes of the world away from what is happening in the Gulf region and an attempt to silence the Arab voices which are condemning and rejecting the foreign intervention in the region," the official was quoted as saying. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has spoken out against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but he has also been highly critical of the subsequent U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf.

North Korea opposes U.S. role

TOKYO (R) — North Korea said it opposed Iraq's annexation of Kuwait but called for a peaceful settlement of U.S. and other foreign troops from the region. A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking to the official KCNA news agency monitored in Tokyo Friday, also denied what he called an insidious false report in a U.S. newspaper that Pyongyang was delivering arms to Baghdad. According to the agency, the spokesman said: "... We oppose Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and annexation and, at the same time, denounce the United States for taking this opportunity of massing large armed forces in the Gulf area and attempting to start a wholesale military intervention in this region."

The world was watching with deep apprehension developments in the Middle East, now at a more grave stage "owing to the armed intervention of the U.S. imperialists and other outside forces," the North Korean official said. "We maintain that the Iraq-Kuwait dispute should be resolved in a peaceful way and the presence of foreign armed forces in the Gulf and their intervention in this region be discontinued," he added.

Portuguese supply ships join Gulf force

LISBON, (AP) — Portugal has committed a naval supply ship and two civilian support vessels to the international armada in the Middle East. The ships will be the first Portuguese contribution to the multinational force opposing Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Defence Minister Fernando Nogueira announced the decision after meeting with military officials. He said naval supply ship Sao Miguel, will help impose the United Nations embargo on trade with Iraq and Kuwait. The two civilian ships are to sail in answer to a U.S. request for support vessels to back warships in the Gulf, Nogueira said. Portugal is also sending a frigate to participate in NATO exercises in the Mediterranean Sea beginning Sept. 10, the minister said. The exercises are not directly linked to the imposition of sanctions against Iraq, Nogueira added.

Swedish company built Iraqi shelters

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish companies built about a dozen bomb shelters in Baghdad which could protect Iraqis during an American air raid, construction workers said Thursday. "About a dozen shelters were built in Baghdad and surrounding areas. Plans existed for more shelters but they were never built," said Lars-Erik Kindstedt, who works for Flakt, the company that installed the ventilation in the shelters in the 1980s. "The shelters

were built during the war with Iran but were empty or used as restaurants or libraries when we left them," Kindstedt said in a telephone interview. "The missile attacks by Iran had ceased by then. It is not impossible that one of the shelters was turned into a central military command but it is not something that I know about."

The respected newspaper, Dagens Industri, reported Wednesday that 14 installations were built in Baghdad in the 1980. It said they were equipped with shock absorbers and ventilation with filter protection against gas and radiation.

Iranian scholar Najafi dead at 96

NICOSIA (AP) — Ayatollah Marashi Najafi, a senior cleric and one of Iran's top Islamic authorities, died of a heart attack, Teheran radio reported Thursday. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said he died Wednesday at age 96 in his home in the holy city of Qom in western Iran. Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani declared a three-day mourning in Najafi's memory. Najafi was born in the city of Najaf in Iraq in 1894. He came to Iran in 1923 on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam Reza. After a three-month stay in Teheran, he was invited to teach at the renowned Qom theological seminary. He remained in Iran ever since, and came to be regarded as a grand ayatollah, or supreme Shi'ite Muslim authority, in recognition of his learning. During his years in Iraq, Najafi wrote many treatises on Islam and Shiism.

Family of six flees Kuwait via Iraq

ATHENS (AP) — Six Greeks fled Kuwait by

Home News

Women stage sit-in in support of Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian women Thursday expressed their full support for Iraqi women and children and denounced the war of starvation launched by the United States against the Iraqi children.

The women, who staged a sit-in at King Abdullah's Mosque Thursday in response to a call by the General Federation of Jordanian Women, called for boycotting all goods produced by America, Britain and all the countries who sent forces to the region.

In a communiqué, issued at the end of the sit-in, the women expressed their resolve to adopt austerity measures and to do without all forms of luxuries, to undergo civil defence training and to inculcate the moral values and the spirit of martyrdom in defence of the homeland, in their children.

They also appealed to all Jordanians to enroll in the People's Army to receive the necessary training that would enable them to defend the homeland.

Concluding their communiqué, the women called for an end to the inhuman war of starvation imposed by the foreign countries.

against the Iraqi people and voiced their rejection of the presence of foreign forces in the Arab region.

The federation's President Mahdi Al Zeneili called on all Jordanians to extend every possible help to the evacuees and to help them overcome their plight.

In Madaba, the Islamists organised a public rally to voice support for Iraq. Addressing the rally were the Lower House of Parliament members Ahmed Qutish, Abu Minya Abu Zant and Hamzeh Mansour and the mayors of Madaba and Imlech.

Speakers underlined the dangers encountered by the Arab and Muslim nations and called on the Jordanian people to equip themselves to counter the challenges and threats currently facing the country.

They also appealed to all Jordanians to enrol in the People's Army to receive the necessary training that would enable them to defend the homeland.

Concluding their communiqué, the women called for an end to the inhuman war of starvation imposed by the foreign countries.

Crown Prince visits Ruweished, stresses Jordan's need for aid

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday visited Ruweished, where thousands of evacuees are living in two camps, especially set up there to accommodate the increasing number of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

In a statement to Radio Jordan (Arabic service), Prince Hassan said that the two camps could accommodate only 25,000 transient people, while many others live in the streets.

Prince Hassan said that 20,000 people cross the border point at Ruweished every day and that the majority do not have the means to leave to their respective countries.

"If the situation persists as it is, and if the first cry of the armed conflict is to be heard in the region, the problem will further deteriorate, and by then we will be talking about millions rather than thousands of evacuees," Prince Hassan said.

He said that contacts were under way between the governments of Jordan and the respective governments of the evacuees who came from Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and other countries.

Prince Hassan called on the governments who had pledged at the United Nations to provide support and relief assistance to Jordan to do so. The Crown Prince said he made the necessary contacts with the U.N. secretary general to ensure their repatriation.

Prince Hassan warned of another refugee problem, saying that Jordan had warned always lived this problem and does not want to see it happen again.

Also Thursday Prince Hassan appealed to the international community to provide urgent assistance to Jordan to enable it to cope with the immense task of accommodating and feeding thousands of Arab and foreign nationals arriving in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

He said that volunteers were needed to distribute food supplies and offer other services to evacuees at the various camps and gatherings.

The Jordanian government, the Regent said, is planning to set up a new gathering centre at Azraq northeast of Amman to cope with the influx of expatriates coming to Jordan.

Regent receives Iraqi, Filipino foreign ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday received Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz and wished him success in his talks with the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

good care accorded to Filipinos arriving in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

Prince Hassan and the guest discussed Jordan's role in providing assistance and care to evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

The visiting minister thanked Jordan for its humanitarian assistance and its efforts to meet the basic needs of evacuees, and lauded the unique role Jordan is playing to contain the Gulf crisis.

The minister said he would make every possible effort to prevent escalation to a destructive war in the region.

Prince Hassan referred to the impressions of the Indian foreign minister and the Austrian president, who visited Baghdad recently, and said they show that the Iraqi leader was ready for negotiations.

Prince Hassan said that U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar would not visit the region if he did not believe there was a chance for peace. He said power was diplomacy and this made King Hussein struggle to prevent a possible war. The Crown Prince added "we should give peace this last chance."

The Philippine foreign minister who arrived in Amman Friday for a short working visit left the Kingdom Friday.

Peace should be given a chance

In an interview conducted by U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, for a television syndicate, the Crown Prince said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was ready for negotiations and that His Majesty King Hussein was trying hard to end escalation to a destructive war in the region.

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Women appeal to U.N. secretary-general for peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A letter of appeal tied with a ribbon in the colours of the Jordanian flag and an olive branch was handed on Friday to the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is visiting Jordan in order to hold talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz. The letter of appeal was written by the same group of Jordanian women volunteers who marched on Thursday Aug. 23, in support of His Majesty King Hussein.

The following is the full text of the letter of appeal:

"To: His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. From: the women of Jordan. Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, are a group of Jordanian women representing a large cross-section of Jordanian society. We are mothers, sisters, wives, daughters who decided to write to you this appeal on the occasion of your visit to our country. We know you to be an honourable man, a citizen of the world, an international statesman who dedicated his life to serve humanity through creating conditions for justice, freedom and peace to prevail. We also know of your commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and appreciate your ceaseless efforts to uphold its lofty principles. We bimby request that you accept this appeal in the same spirit it

was written in.
Your Excellency,

You are well aware that our region is passing through the worst crisis in its modern history. We are not politicians, we do not understand the political machinations of governments and states. We are only concerned with the fate of the children in the Arab World who are the hope of the future. We submit that the sanctions, the embargo and the naval blockade imposed against Iraq by the Security Council will lead to untold suffering by the children of Iraq. Is it fair or just or humane to deprive children of their daily milk? Is it necessary to make the innocent women and children of Iraq pay for what the Security Council perceives to be illegal actions on the part of the Iraqi government? Do two wrongs make a right? And why the double standards? Why didn't the Security Council not act with such speed and decisiveness when Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights? Or when Israel raped Lebanon? Or when it annexed the Holy City of Jerusalem?

We, as representatives of the Jordanian women, feel that we and our children are being persecuted. We are being denied our inalienable right to live in peace and security. Our country is being forced to make sacrifices it cannot bear under the flimsy premise of accepting mandatory Security Council resolutions. Our national economy, our indus-

try, agricultural and transportation sectors are organisationally tied to Iraq. Without the Iraqi market our factories will close down; our agricultural produce will be reduced and our transportation sector will be totally devastated. Our bus-bands will be unemployed and our sons will suffer the consequences. Is it fair to make Jordan pay for enforcing the embargo against Iraq? Or be threatened by a similar embargo? Is this in keeping with the spirit of the United Nations Charter?

Your Excellency,
The scourge of war is what worries us most. The massive build-up of foreign forces in the Gulf region is creating a war hysteria. We need an immediate de-escalation of the crisis. All efforts must be extended to avert war before one can start to discuss formulas for settling the crisis. Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is a moderate, peace-loving country. We have always been the voice of reason and sobriety in our region. We have always upheld the principles of the United Nations Charter and advocated the settlement of disputes by peaceful means through negotiations and dialogue. You, Mr. secretary general, are a man of peace. We humbly urge you to do all you can to halt the rapid deterioration of the situation towards armed conflict; to commence a dialogue between the parties of the conflict; to alleviate the suffering of the

peoples of Iraq and Jordan by freezing the embargo so that negotiations can be conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill; and to cooperate closely with His Majesty King Hussein to arrive at an acceptable and peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Your Excellency,
The olive tree is a blessed tree indigenous to Jordan and the Middle East. The olive branch symbolizes peace. We beseech you to take the olive branch we are extending to you and carry it back with you to the Security Council and its permanent members. We pray for your continued good health and success in your noble endeavour.

Peace be unto you, and the mercy and blessings of the Almighty God."

The letter was signed by representatives of Jordanian women which included: Janette Al Mutti, Leila Madi, Ghida Al Saeed, Leila Khatib, Baraa Faroun, Lamia Jindeeb, Zein Khalifeh, Aishah Al Farah, Nazimeh Arafat, Salwa Taber, Adibeh Al Qaden, Hadia Madi, Sawsan Mufleh, Lubna Sabbagh, Nadia Tabaz, Sitta Hadid, Nimra Tannous, Samira Kousous, Randa Mufleh, Wajdan Saket, Fadia Hamzeh, Ghada Kembawi, Hala Shaqem, Lamia Satu, Hiam Mufleh, Affaf Dajani, Khadija Abdul Samad, Shima Tabaz, Abla Kilani, Basma Mufleh, Munawar Al Nouri, Affaf Baghdadi, Rida Izzadine.

Meeting stresses need for common Arab stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Deputy Hussein Mjalli returned home Friday after taking part in a conference held in Libya to discuss the situation in the Arab Gulf region.

Mjalli said participants in the three-day conference, which was attended by 300 Arab personalities, affirmed that "the challenge the Arab Nation is facing in the Arab Gulf region is an American plot against all the Arab World, not only against one Arab country."

He said the participants believed that a unified Arab stand that can prevent the "American Zionist" intervention in the Arab World was still possible.

"He said that the conferees found it necessary to hold an extraordinary summit to be attended by Iraq, Syria and Jordan to reformulate relations among the three Arab states and to confront the current crisis in the Gulf region.

The participants in the conference believe the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is the qualified person to bring the summit into being, Mjalli said.

"The conference affirmed that it cannot be accepted to leave the U.S., the first enemy of the Arab Nation, to be the leading party in the crisis under the cover of the Arabs' inability to deal with it, because this cripples the Arab will and humiliates Arab dignity," Mjalli said.

Shbeilat said that the visit was successful and fruitful and that it provided a good opportunity for the exchange of views on the Gulf crisis. He pointed out to the fact that the Iranians are fully aware of the dangers posed by the existence of foreign forces in the region not only to Iraq, but also to the whole Islamic world.

Shbeilat said that time was mature for restoring diplomatic relations between Iran and Jordan and called on the Jordanian government to speed up the restoration

of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He said that the Iranians had welcomed the initiative of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to accept Algeria's agreement to exchange prisoners of war and that Tehran was looking forward to normalization of relations with Iraq.

He said the Iranians were awaiting a visit by the Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to settle all outstanding issues.

Jordanians urge U.N. to apply resolutions indiscriminately

solutions, was the prevailing practice at the U.N.

The signatories called on the U.N. to be fully aware of its status and to live up to its responsibilities in defending the future of peace and safeguarding its own existence. They voiced hope that right will triumph in the end, and that peace will prevail.

They called on the superpowers, the symbols of power in the world, to be advocates for the right, justice and peace rather than tools for oppression and humiliation of the people.

In another development, the Islamist Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament warned of the outbreak of a devastating war in the region and called for finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, to enable all people to live peacefully and safely. The bloc warned of the grave dangers of foreign intervention in the region. It said

they said that the stationing of foreign forces in the region would further aggravate the situation in the region and will add fuel to the fire rather than help extinguish it.

Kuwait embassy says solution for Gulf exists

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-member parliamentary delegation, formed by deputies Laith Shbeilat, Mohammad Alawneh and Yacoub Qararsab, returned home Thursday at the end of a visit to Tehran where they met with Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and parliament speaker Mahdi Krubi and exchanged views on the Gulf crisis.

In a statement to the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Shbeilat said the Iranian and Jordanian peoples' views on the Gulf crisis were

identical. Shbeilat said that the visit was successful and fruitful and that it provided a good opportunity for the exchange of views on the Gulf crisis. He pointed out to the fact that the Iranians are fully aware of the dangers posed by the existence of foreign forces in the region not only to Iraq, but also to the whole Islamic world.

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Physical Education; Music; Drama; Science; Maths; English etc.

The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community.

Football; Basketball; Volleyball; Athletics; Gymnastics etc.

Buses are available to cover principal residential areas.

The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations everyday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September.

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Tel: 841070

Austria values Jordan's efforts — envoy

By Abdallah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austria is deeply moved by Jordan's efforts to find a peaceful settlement for the Gulf crisis and the help the country extended during President Kurt Waldheim's visit which led to the subsequent release of Austrians detained in Iraq, the Austrian ambassador

to Jordan, Dr. Franz Pernegger, said Friday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Ambassador Pernegger said: "There is a great sympathy and esteem in my country for the role of His Majesty King Hussein in giving every possible assistance to the primarily humanitarian initiative of President Kurt Waldheim.

Last Friday (Aug. 24) Presi-

dent Waldheim arrived in Jordan and held talks with the King before leaving for Baghdad Saturday morning. The Austrian president held three rounds of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein before returning to Amman with 96 Austrians who used to work in Iraq and Kuwait.

"The release of Austrian civilians in Iraq and Kuwait was greatly due to the spontaneous support we received from the Jordanian authorities," Dr. Pernegger said.

"There is a strong feeling in

Austria that coincides with Jordan's view that peace in the region must be given a chance," the ambassador said.

"Austria would certainly be happy if a peaceful settlement

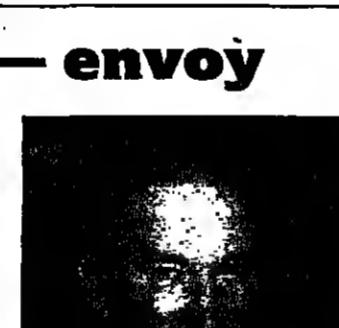
could be reached in an Arab context on the basis of Security Council resolutions."

Austria's political leadership is fully aware that the effect of any confrontation in the Gulf "would go beyond the region," the ambassador said.

The ambassador quoted an Iraqi embassy official in Vienna as telling the Austrian News Agency (ABA) that Iraq's decision to release Western women and children from Iraq was an indirect consequence of President Waldheim's visit.

During his three meetings with President Saddam Hussein, Waldheim "pleaded for the release of all civilians irrespective of their nationality," Pernegger said. "He explained that that would be an effective step to de-escalate the conflict."

President Waldheim, "who experienced the bitter years of



Dr. Franz Pernegger

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous

INVITATION

Under the patronage of
His Royal Highness
Crown Prince Hassan

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities - the Department of Antiquities, has the pleasure to invite the public to visit the archaeological exhibition entitled

"All Lajjun - A Roman Frontier Fort"

organised in cooperation with the University of North Carolina.

Starting

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1990 5

Brotherhood stages anti-U.S. protest

By Marium M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

MAHATTI — The Jordanian capital Friday witnessed the fiercest outburst yet of anti-American sentiments fuelled by Washington's military deployment in the Gulf with calls on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to declare a holy war against the United States and Israel.

During the largest political rally held today in the capital, about 15,000 people expressed their strong opposition to foreign intervention in the region and their willingness to fight alongside Iraq if threatened by Western military forces.

During the rally, organised by the Muslim Brotherhood,

participants chanted anti-American slogans and burned the American flag in this working class suburb of Amman.

In an emotionally charged atmosphere further highlighted the presence of thousands of women, leaders of the Brotherhood, which holds 22 seats in the 90-member Lower House of Parliament, reiterated calls made by Islamic leaders in Jordan over the last four weeks on Muslims of the world to unite against the "invasion of the holy land by non-Muslim Western troops."

Thousands of scarved women and children in green headbands participated in the rally and echoed the call of their leaders to Saddam

"declare a holy war." The holy war, speakers said, "would of course include Israel as well as enemies of Islam."

Speakers, who included fiery Lower House Deputy Sheikh Abdul Minem Abu Zant and Brotherhood spokesman Ziad Abu Ghannim, called for an immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from the region.

Abu Zant, a maverick member of the Brotherhood, called the U.N. Security Council a "council of destruction" for endorsing international sanctions against Iraq.

With harshly worded slogans against what they described as "occupation troops" in Saudi Arabia which houses Mecca and Medina, speakers

questioned the record of the U.N. in efforts to implement Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian problem and asked what the world body had done to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Speakers also called on the Jordanian government to arm all Jordanians in preparation against any attack by outside forces.

Bitter attack against the U.S. and the burning of American, Israeli and sometimes British flags have become more frequent as anti-foreign-intervention and pro-Iraq rallies have continued to draw large crowds in Jordan recent weeks.

Although Friday's rally was attended by over 15,000 people, it was not clear whether all

of them were direct supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood as a political group or were motivated by the pan-Arab sentiments sparked by Iraq's open defiance of the United States and the West. During several past rallies, it appeared that over half the attendance participants espoused Arab nationalistic sentiments than any outright support for the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood has also participated in rallies organised by other blocs such as the Baathists and leftist-oriented groups but always been careful to emphasise that Brotherhood members were participating in their individual capacity rather than as a political group.



A scene from Friday's rally at Mahatti (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Important step forward'

(Continued from page 1)

private session, which the secretary general described as "useful."

"We had a useful discussion during which we discussed all aspects of the present situation," he told reporters.

"We are convinced these meetings are useful and important. That is why we are continuing..." he added.

Perez de Cuellar, in an arrival statement Thursday, said he was not coming here to negotiate but to exchange views with Aziz. He said he had to come to find out whether Iraq would comply with Security Council resolutions demanding Baghdad withdraw from Kuwait and release all foreigners.

"I cannot make concessions or negotiate resolutions adopted by the Security Council," Perez de Cuellar told reporters at the Manama military airport. "These are not my resolutions to negotiate."

Aziz gave no hint of compromise and issued a strong statement when he arrived in Amman.

"The Arab Nation will achieve its goals despite the world conspiracy and challenges awaiting it. Our fight is historic. Victory, God willing, will belong to the Arab Nation," Aziz told reporters.

He told Jordan Television he would discuss all aspects of the Gulf crisis during his talks with the secretary general.

"I am optimistic about the future of the Arab Nation. I am here to listen to Mr. Perez de Cuellar. I won't make any commitments before the talks," he said.

The foreign minister said that preparations were under way for foreign women and children to leave Iraq but did not provide a specific timetable.

In an interview with the French daily Le Figaro before his talks in Amman, Aziz gave no indication that Iraq was ready to make concessions. He said the United Nations could initiate indirect talks between Iraq and the other parties involved in the conflict, as it did in the Iraq-Iran war.

Iraq and Iran held intermittent peace talks for years through the United Nations while they fought their war.

"I know Perez de Cuellar," he told the French daily. "We worked a lot together during the Iraq-Iran war. When the situation looked stalled. The secretary

general presented notes and documents to the two governments."

"This method allowed the two parties to maintain a discussion in spite of everything else," Aziz told reporters.

Perez de Cuellar said Thursday he saw indications that Iraq could be flexible in talks to resolve the crisis. He cited what he called Iraq's humanitarian gesture in allowing foreign women and children held in Iraq and Kuwait to leave.

In his Le Figaro interview, Aziz repeated Iraq's threat to use whatever weapons come to hand if attacked. "If you threaten Iraq once we will accept a deal that leaves a wounded tiger in place in Baghdad," the newspaper said it was told by a "well-placed" U.S. source.

The Times quoted its sources as saying Turkey, the exiled Kuwaiti government, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman were among the countries urging the United States to use force.

Saudi leaders have said publicly that they oppose an offensive U.S. military operation, but the Times quoted its source as saying, "... in reality, they are talking something different."

Bush told reporters in Washington that his analysis have a hard time determining whether the standoff with Iraq will end up in a shooting war.

"It's so hard to answer that question because of the unpredictable nature of Saddam Hussein himself."

"It's very hard to predict... but I think the answer is to have the forces in place to be ready," he added. "I don't know what is in this man's mind."

The Bush administration could cite alleged violations to justify any military action against Iraq, according to administration sources quoted by the Los Angeles Times.

The administration also might move the "show" of Saddam Hussein and his key adviser for "trial" one of the objectives of the U.S. buildup in the Gulf, officials told the Times.

"Some (legal) action has to be taken, but because we have a right to bring him to justice and to deter him from further violations," said an administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the short term, administration officials said the preparation of charges was intended to deter Saddam from taking further action against thousands of Westerners in Iraq and Kuwait.

"My ideas are not yet — to the

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

quoted sources as saying U.S. allies fear that anything less than crushing Iraqi military forces would leave Baghdad's conventional, chemical and nuclear weapons intact and would put Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states at Iraq's mercy once U.S. and other foreign troops are withdrawn.

"There is no doubt that the Saudis and the Israelis fear that the United States will accept a deal that leaves a wounded tiger in place in Baghdad," the newspaper said it was told by a "well-placed" U.S. source.

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"My ideas are not yet — to the

King meets Thatcher

(Continued from page 1)

Gonzalez, after visiting five North African states.

At a press conference in Madrid, King Hussein said he believed some progress had been made to defuse the crisis and he hoped to meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein at the end of his mission.

"There is a certain basis for an agreement, in line with the United Nations resolution," he said. "I have tried to impress on my Arab colleagues that hard positions provoke hard positions and risk leading to a point of no return."

In the Moroccan capital King Hussein held two rounds of talks with King Hassan, who has sent 1,200 troops to Saudi Arabia. The troops are joining Arab forces dispatched by an Arab League summit to defend Saudi Arabia against possible Iraqi attack.

Both Britain and France, which have sent warships and combat planes to join the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf, have rejected negotiations with Baghdad unless it frees all foreigners held in Kuwait and Iraq and withdraws war.

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APPEAL

MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan.

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres:

The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398. Tel. 639555

GUVS - Amman Governorate (02)242518

GUVS - Irbid Governorate (09)981712

GUVS - Zarqa Governorate (05)555285

GUVS - Karak Governorate (03)351169

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Ricardo

Agassi, Graf win at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Andre Agassi, cursing at the umpire, talked his way out of trouble and barely beat a bold Peter Korda in a tense and dramatic U.S. Open match.

Agassi was given a warning and a point penalty, which was rescinded moments later in the second set after the umpire conferred with the tournament referee. Agassi went on to a 7-5, 5-7, 6-0, 6-4 victory over Korda Thursday, who turned his ankle in the eighth game of the fourth set but refused to quit.

Korda received treatment for his ankle, then came back and won the next point with a backhand crosscourt while limping badly. Agassi served an ace to win the game and take a 5-3 lead, but again Korda grinded and held on. Korda held serve, limping continuously, but couldn't stop Agassi's service for the match.

For one marvelous set, Steffi Graf played in one of those zones that tennis players love, spaced out beyond the ozone, hitting perfect shots past a most imperious opponent.

Graf, going for her third straight U.S. Open title, came back to earth after the stretch and settled for a 6-1, 6-3 victory over 18-year-old Rachel McQuillan, a promising Australian who simply was overwhelmed, to advance to the third round.

Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati, two girls who just wanna have fun and win, perked up the U.S. Open during the afternoon with giggles and grunts and power strokes galore.

The third-seeded Seles, thankful she didn't have to play past her bedtime after a rain delay Wednesday night, came back fresh to reach the third round by beating Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer 6-2, 6-2.

Capriati, seeded no. 13 but closing in quickly on the top players, had an easy at time getting to the third round with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patricia Hy.

Neither Seles, nor Capriati, 14, played on the stadium court, but they were the centres of attention even on a day when Boris Becker beat flashy Frenchman Yannick Noah 6-4, 6-2, 7-6, (7-2) and Gary Muller upset no. 14 Jim Courier 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, (8-6), 7-6, (7-5).

Only a thrilling double upset, Nelson Aerts and Danilo Marcellino beating top-seeded Rick Leach and Jim Pugh 7-6, (7-5), 7-6, (7-5), rivaled the excitement Seles and Capriati generated.

Wimbledon finalist Zina Garrison spoiled the fun for another 16-year-old, pig-tailed Angelica Gavaldon, beating her 6-4, 6-0.

In other men's matches, no. 8 Brad Gilbert beat Rick Leach 7-6, (7-4), 6-4, 6-2, no. 9 Aaron

Krickstein beat Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 6-2, 6-4, and no. 11 Michael Chang beat Jimmy Arias 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-2.

At this stage, Becker is not looking for any challenges. So the early elimination of no. 1 seed Stefan Edberg at the U.S. Open suits no. 2 Becker just fine.

"I prefer it without Edberg," Becker said Thursday after advancing to the third round.

Wouldn't he like a showdown with the Swede, a chance to redeem himself for the loss to Edberg in the finals at Wimbleton?

Becker smiled thinly. "We will have a couple of more opportunities," he said.

Edberg washed out of the open Tuesday, beaten by unheralded Alexander Volkov. That makes Becker the favourite and he looked the part against Noah, who often seemed overmatched.

"I expected a tough match," Noah said. "He is playing well and the more matches he plays, the more he improves."

"His serve is his best weapon. When he is serving big, he is winning tournaments. But he is not no. 2 because of one shot. He is at his best when he serves well and comes to the net."

The serve can be a fickle weapon, though, and Becker knows it.

"It is mysterious," he said. "It think."

can come and go. For six years, I have tried to find out why, to find the answer."

And so for assessing his game, Becker said it is too soon for that. "We are the second round," he said. "That's way too early."

"I have to play very well to beat a Noah. I didn't expect to play that well that early."

That would seem to be a good sign for Becker's prospects. Still, Noah is not prepared to concede the tournament to him. And Becker is not prepared to claim it, even with Edberg out of the way.

"There are good players here," Noah said, "a lot of guys who can win."

For Becker, playing this well this early is not a bad thing. "It's better than never doing it," he said.

The decisive loss left Noah grouping a bit about his future.

"It was very frustrating, a difficult situation," he said. "I'm not playing well. The open was a goal of mine and I'm not too happy with the way it went."

Would a break from the sport help?

"I can't afford to take a break," Noah said. "If I take a break, it's for good."

As for Becker, he has no problem with his situation.

"I am no. 2, close to no. 1," he said. "That's pretty good. I think."

Baltic breakaway cuts both ways

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)

— Take away a basketball star from Lithuania, a bobsledder from Latvia or a sailor from Estonia, and the Soviet Union's sports machine would be missing some major pieces.

But the impact on sports of the potential breakaway of the Baltic republics from the Soviets' political federation cuts both ways.

As sports officials from the three regions met Thursday with International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, they were told that athletes on both sides of the dispute should come first.

"Athletes are suffering," said Vitaly Smirnov, a member of the IOC's executive board and head of the Soviet National Olympic Committee.

Smirnov said that key training facilities lie in the Baltics, and that a political split could stunt budding stars from the rest of the nation.

At the same time, separationist tactics such as Lithuania's withdrawal from the Soviet League were burning efforts to build a national team and depriving the Lithuanian players of going against the best, Smirnov said.

"An athlete without competition is nothing, just nothing," he said.

Smirnov said the Baltics had pledged to allow their athletes to compete on the Soviet teams in '92 if a political split is not final.

He said it was unrealistic to think that the three republics would be politically independent by that time.

Other Soviet sports officials recently reported similar promises from the Baltics.

The Baltics, tiny in size, have provided a relatively large number of stars for the Soviet teams that have dominated world sports for the last 35 years. At the recent Goodwill Games in Seattle, about two dozen of the 420-member Soviet team came from the three republics.

E. Germans lead in gold medals at European Championships

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (AP) — Katrin Krabbe of East Germany took the women's 200 metres to become the first double gold medal winner at the European Track and Field Championships, and Britain won two more men's golds.

But this was the day Sergei Bubka lost. For seven years the busby Soviet pole vaulter had won every major event he had entered.

He jumped nine times in Split and made seven misses. Bubka, the Olympic gold medalist, world record holder, two-time world champion and defending European champion, finally bowed to defeat.

Teammate Rodion Gataulin took the gold with 5.85 metres. Fellow Soviet Grigory Yegorov was second with 5.75 (18-10, 1-4), and Hermann Fehring of Austria was third, also at 5.75, for a national record.

Bubka ended sixth at 5.70, but he said he was not finished. He blamed his defeat on a number of injuries and a sore back in training, but he vowed to come back soon.

After four days of athletics in this Adriatic resort, East Germany led in gold medals with eight, pushed by their women, and Britain, dominating the men's events, followed with seven.

Krabbe, 10, dominated the women's golds of the day went to Dietmar Haaf of West Germany with 8.25 metres in the long jump. Angel Hernandez of Spain was second with 8.15 and Borut Bilan of Yugoslavia third with 8.09.

Monique Ewanje-Epe of France won the women's 100 metres hurdles in 12.79 seconds, one of the few events in which the East Germans had to give up the gold.

Gloria Siebert, however, took the silver with 12.91 and Lydia Lurkova of the Soviet Union was third with 12.92.

Peter Elliott of Britain, the heavy favourite for the men's 1,500 metres, fell during his semi-final, in a crowded pack some 600 metres from the finish.

Team spokesman Tony Ward

made a formal protest, complaining that Elliott had been pushed.

The jury viewed a tape of the race, and it blamed Hauke Fuhrbruegge of East Germany for pushing Elliott. The British miler was allowed to run in the final and the German was disqualified.

Another favourite, Are Nakken of Norway who took the silver medal in the 100,000, fell during a semifinal for the 5,000 metres and was eliminated.

In a major upset, Paivi Alfranti of Finland won the women's javelin with 67.68 metres, besting a strong East German team led by world record holder Petra Felke.

Karen Forkel was second with 67.56 and Felke third with 66.56 (218-4).

Meanwhile, Sorin Matei of Romania, the only high jumper to have cleared 2.40 metres this year, pulled out of the European Athletics Championships Friday.

Officials said Matei aggravated a back muscle injury in training and could not take part in the qualifying competition.

The 27-year-old Bucharest student had been on superb form all season and was hot favourite to claim gold in Split.

Carlo Thuraehardt of West Germany, bronze medallist at the last European Championships four years ago, cleared only 2.20 metres in the qualifying competition and failed to reach the final.

Rowlan was second at 8:13.27 and Alessandro Lambuschini of Italy third at 8:15.82.

Italy held three golds, third in the standings.

The last men's gold of the day went to Dietmar Haaf of West Germany with 8.25 metres in the long jump. Angel Hernandez of Spain was second with 8.15 and Borut Bilan of Yugoslavia third with 8.09.

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Team spokesman Tony Ward

Leeds shows it belongs back in 1st division

LONDON (AP) — It has not taken Leeds long to show it belongs back in the first division of the English Soccer League.

The squad, promoted to division one this season after eight years in the second division, has claimed four points with a victory and a tie in its first two games. It is in sixth place in the early league race.

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like to reclaim the National Olympic Committee status they had with the IOC before their territories were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Samaranch told the meeting the political problems between Moscow and the three republics must be solved before a sports solution is found. But he also said that Sabonis and other athletes must be the primary concern of both sides.

"We made the political point," the IOC chief said. "We told them we hope that they can solve their political problems. The Olympic problem then would be resolved."

"The second point we made is that they must find ways not to sacrifice their athletes. I asked them to remember their athletes whatever they do."

Samaranch said the meeting was very friendly and very positive. "No specific requests regarding Olympic status for 1992 were made," he said.

Smirnov said the Baltics had pledged to allow their athletes to compete on the Soviet teams in '92 if a political split is not final.

He said it was unrealistic to think that the three republics would be politically independent by that time.

Other Soviet sports officials recently reported similar promises from the Baltics.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Not a day to spend taking chances but at the same time you can achieve a great deal by accepting an opportunity that you had decided to forego. Travel plans are subject to change.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you have been awaiting a good time to have a talk with usual routine allies for increasing productivity you have it in this unique day.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) The most original course of action at your fingertips that will help you to add to your holding and have more of life's goods is now yours.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Open your consciousness to the more comprehensive channel through which your energies can be directed and you can have unusual results.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to February 19) Consider your friends who are most forward looking, let them know what is closest to your heart and then follow their suggestions for being happier.

AQUARIUS: (February 20 to March 20) Consider the outside world and what fascinates you the most about it and then do whatever will make you more a part of that worldwide scene.

OTHER: (March 21 to April 19) Situation comes to light in reference to another person that can change the course of that association so go along with for the best.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be on the alert for some improved ways to handle your usual activities and you can make more headway in producing results satisfactory to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) One entertainment that has been in your life for sometime is about to go out so that another can bring you even more enjoyment so be alert for what they do."

CARROUSEL: (June 22 to July 21) Make sure you have your residence just as you wish it to be and this will require you go along with some unusual events happening there.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't put the same old expressions and remarks in either correspondence or conversations for departing from usual will improve your contacts.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Scan your newspaper and other

periodicals for advanced ways by which you can add to your income and revenue or improve your possessions.

Poland fears mounting fuel costs

WARSAW (R) — The Gulf crisis and lower Soviet oil supplies will lift domestic fuel prices in Poland this year, but not cause petrol shortages. Foreign Trade Minister Marcin Swiecicki said Friday.

"We have enough money to buy petrol. Only higher demand or panic on the (domestic) market might cause temporary trouble," the official news agency PAP quoted him as saying.

State oil distributor CPN has announced price rises of 33 per cent for petrol and 16 per cent for diesel fuel from Saturday, raising them from 3.20 zloties (34 cents) and 2,200 zloties (23 cents) per litre.

An international embargo of Iraqi oil, which Baghdad was supplying to repay its debt to Warsaw, has deprived Poland of 750,000 tonnes of crude this year.

Swiecicki said the Soviet Union, which is cutting back supplies to East European countries, was also behind on contracted oil deliveries to Poland.

"In view of our lost Iraqi oil deliveries, the reduced oil supplies from the Soviet Union, which are two million tonnes overdue, and higher world oil prices, the domestic price of petrol will go up this year. However, no petrol shortages are expected in Poland," Swiecicki said.

Egypt cuts oil prices

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, its economy taking a beating from the Gulf crisis, cut oil prices by \$5 Thursday after a series of increases earlier last month, a senior Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) official said.

He told Reuters the cut was effective immediately and would be valid until further notice.

The cut brought down the prime Zeit and Ras Bahar grades to \$25.80 from \$30.80 a barrel and the benchmark Suez blend to \$25.50.

No-OPEC Egypt produces about 900,000 barrels per day (b/d) of which it exports 500,000 b/d.

The Gulf crisis has virtually ended the flow of at least \$1 billion sent home every year by nearly two million Egyptians employed in Iraq and Kuwait.

Thousands are returning to Egypt empty handed and will soon start looking for already scarce jobs.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, August 30, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	125.2 126.0
U.S. dollar	660.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	454.7 457.4
Pound Sterling	1268.5 1276.1	Dutch guilder	372.5 374.7
Deutschmark	419.7 422.2	Swedish crown	114.1 114.8
Swiss franc	507.6 510.6	Italian lira (for 100)	56.7 57.0
		Belgian franc (for 100)	205.3 206.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.8980/90	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1480/90	Canadian dollar	
1.5630/35		Deutschmarks	
1.7615/20		Dutch guilders	
1.2945/55		Swiss francs	
32.04/09		Belgian francs	
5.2440/90		French francs	
1161/1162		Italian lire	
144.05/15		Japanese yen	
5.7540/90		Swedish crowns	
6.0575/0625		Norwegian crowns	
5.9885/9935		Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	387.80/388.30	U.S. dollars	

M.E. tension causes new fuel price hike in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The government has raised fuel prices 8.9 per cent, the third increase in a month, in response to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

The increase, in conjunction with hikes in electricity and postal rates, was expected. Observers have expressed concern that higher public tariffs will jeopardise the government's anti-inflation strategy.

National secretary of economy, Joao Maia, said the increase was effective Friday.

The pump price of gasoline increased from 43.32 cruzeiros a litre (\$2.27 a gallon) to 47.17 cruzeiros (\$2.48 a gallon).

The price of pure alcohol fuel rose from 33.51 cruzeiros a litre (\$1.74 a gallon) to 36.49 cruzeiros (\$1.89 a gallon).

Production costs for alcohol fuel are double those for gasoline but cheaper for consumers due to government subsidies. Some 4.5 million vehicles, one-third of the country's total, run on alcohol made from domestically grown sugar cane.

Rising international oil prices following the Iraqi take over of Kuwait have hit this South American giant hard. Brazil produces an average of 665,000 barrels of oil daily, but must import another 550,000 barrels to meet domestic needs.

Iraq was Brazil's top oil supplier, selling 140,000 barrels per day, before President Fernando Collor de Mello ordered a halt to oil imports from Iraq in accordance with U.N. sanctions.

Combined oil purchases from Iraq and Kuwait, which sold Brazil 30,000 barrels daily before the presidential order, met over 35 per cent of import needs.

The hike was the third in August after fuel prices were sharply increased and then frozen March 15, when Collor decreed an economic austerity plan to bring down record inflation of over 5,000 per cent in the year before he took office.

Inflation has dropped sharply since then, rising 10.79 per cent in July. However, the impact of higher oil prices, along with other

problems, has caused the government to raise its estimate of August inflation from 8.5 per cent to 10.3 per cent in the past three weeks.

Luis Octavio da Motta Veiga, president of the state oil monopoly Petrobras, has been pressuring the government for a fuel hike of 33 per cent.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, concerned about the impact on the inflation front, has opposed such a steep hike.

In addition to the fuel price increase, the government also raised electricity and postal rates, by 8.9 per cent and 9.5 per cent respectively.

With the exception of fuel, all public tariffs had been frozen since March, and all are seriously out of line with real costs. Before the increase, electricity was estimated to be underpriced by 70 per cent and postal rates by 28.5 per cent.

Observers here say the government is trying to control inflation by keeping public tariffs artificially cheap.

Irish examiner wins breathing space for Goodman beef empire

DUBLIN (R) — An Irish high court-appointed examiner won some breathing space Thursday the debt-ridden Goodman International, Europe's biggest beef exporter that has been hard hit by the Gulf crisis.

Under new legislation rushed through parliament Tuesday, examiners can now check the financial health of ailing firms, protect them from their creditors and seek to put together a rescue package.

Goodman International, the privately-owned group of Irish "beef baron" Larry Goodman, owes 460 million pounds (\$782 million) to banks around the world.

Iraq in turn owes 180 million pounds (\$307 million) to Goodman International, a major beef processor and exporter which accounts for five per cent of Ireland's gross national product.

The collapse of the Goodman empire with its one billion punt (\$1.7 billion) annual turnover would pose major problems to the Irish economy which is heavily dependent on farming.

Specially appointed examiner Peter Fitzpatrick said in a statement Thursday "I have been negotiating with the group's

bankers to ensure sufficient funds are available for normal business purposes and to pay existing and future creditors essential to the continuity of the business."

Following those negotiations with the group's principal bankers, I have today received high court approval to obtain sufficient banking facilities which are now in place to ensure the group has adequate funding for the day-to-day needs of the business," he added.

Publco quoted Food Industries PLC, the grain and dairy business in which Larry Goodman, has a 63 per cent stake, also said in a statement that it had "received approaches from a number of sources, domestic and international, expressing interest

U.S. banks tighten credit standards

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Federal Reserve (Fed) survey shows U.S. banks have continued to tighten lending standards in the last three months because of a weakening economy and problems in several industries.

"Domestic respondent banks indicated that since May they have further tightened lending standards and terms with respect to non-merger-related business loans," according to the survey.

It found that the tighter standards were particularly noticeable for medium-sized firms, but also significant for small and large businesses.

The survey polled senior loan officers at 60 domestic banks and 18 branches of foreign institutions.

"Branches and agencies of foreign banks reported that, to balance, they too have moved to restrict the availability of business credit," the survey found.

"By far the most important reasons domestic respondents gave for tightening their credit standards in the last three months were a less favourable economic outlook and industry-specific problems," the survey said.

Most banks reported their willingness to make general purpose and consumer installment loans to individuals was unchanged.

"About three-quarters of respondents reported that they had imposed tighter credit standards for applications to finance commercial office building in the last three months," the survey said.

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Most banks

S. Africa threatens to cut water, power supply to black townships

Police minister predicts more violence

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)

— South Africa's white government threatened Friday to cut off electricity and water supplies immediately to rebellious black townships which are behind in their utility payments.

Soweto, the biggest township in the country, escaped the threat when residents agreed to end a five-year boycott of rent and services payments.

Transvaal province officials who met black leaders there said they would waive 515 million rand (\$198 million) in arrears and agreed on terms for future payments.

But the threat to power and water supplies loomed over many smaller, volatile communities around Johannesburg where 500 people were killed this month in factional fighting.

Payment boycotts in protest over apartheid and poor services have brought to the brink of financial ruin many black municipalities.

Black councils, seen by many residents as collaborators with apartheid, have continued to pay for water and electricity while boycotts cut off their income.

But Planning Minister Herms Kriel warned blacks that the government would cut off vital bridging loans to councils Friday even if this meant utilities were cut off.

Asked at a news conference if this would not aggravate tension in the townships Kriel said: "Nowhere in the world do you get something for nothing."

"We hope this move won't increase the level of violence but we can't go on like this."

The right-wing white town council of Carolina in eastern Transvaal turned off light and water for a township earlier this week, but the provincial authority paid outstanding bills and services were restored.

The liberal Star newspaper commented: "To cut off the townships' lights and water 'until they see sense' might seem to some, like appropriate retaliatory justice."

"Yet it is a dangerous and equally crude response which can lead to chaos and confrontation."

The state electricity utility Eskom and the regional water authority have said they will not act quickly to disconnect the mass of black consumers, despite the

tough official line.

Lawyers said service cuts may breach health laws.

There have been rent boycotts in about 50 townships around the country but the problem is worst in Transvaal where they have cost 834 million rand (\$320 million) since 1986.

Meanwhile, the police minister warned Friday that fighting among black factions could resume at any time and bush South Africa into a spiral of bloodshed.

Law and Order Minister Adriano Vlok also warned that rising crime could trigger violence between whites and blacks. He said police were doing all they could to prevent a new outbreak of fighting.

Vlok said the country was tense after faction fighting in black townships around Johannesburg left at least 518 people dead. He said the tension was being stoked by strikes, black consumer boycotts and terrorist attacks.

"These tendencies are unacceptable. In a new South Africa, South Africans will just have to exercise more tolerance towards one another," Vlok told a

provincial congress of the governing National Party in Durban.

"Order, peace and stability remain prerequisites in the process of building a new South Africa," he said.

Police said Friday the Johannesburg townships were quite. Violence erupted on Aug. 12 between Xhosas linked to the African National Congress and Zulus supporting the conservative Inkatha Movement.

Fighting raged in the townships for more than two weeks with rival groups battling with axes, spears, guns and knives. The government last week imposed emergency restrictions on the townships and sent in troops to aid police.

Vlok denied allegations that police had sided with Inkatha during the fighting. He said police made every effort to be impartial, but there was often little they could do in the face of massive violence.

"We are not angels and we also make mistakes. It is, however, unacceptable to accuse the South African police of being the cause of the violence and unrest," he said.

74 nations adopt environmental report

SUNDsvALL, Sweden (AP) — The United States has joined 73 other nations in agreeing that man's activities are causing the Earth's atmosphere to heat up.

He said he hoped a parliament debate in September on a date for elections and adopting a new constitution would be carried out in an atmosphere of "political culture."

Mazowiecki skirted the issue of whether he would be a candidate for president, opposing Waleśa's all-but-announced candidacy.

"I will answer this question when the problem is put forward formally, when the right time comes. But I think society should have the right to choose between candidates," he said.

At BHP hall, Mazowiecki was asked to explain why his Solidar-

ity-led government has not moved faster to create a free-market economy and dismiss Communist holdovers from government and managerial positions.

Without mentioning Waleśa by name, Mazowiecki replied: "This government has not been, is not and will not, hinder political changes... we have been speeding up, not by arguing but by acting."

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The meeting had been marked by extensive argument behind closed doors between the Americans, who insisted more research is needed, and European nations committed to an international agreement on restricting carbon dioxide emissions.

The conference ended early Friday, more than 12 hours later than scheduled. When the delegates left the conference hall, Bert Bolin, a Swede heading the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes (IPCC), expressed satisfaction.

"I am happy to inform you that the delegates unanimously adopted the report," Bolin, a professor of meteorology, said.

In the mountains on the Azerbaijani border, scene of fierce clashes over the last month, matters were less clear.

Hazarjan identified one group that appeared ready to continue resistance as the "avengers" group based in the Marne region, near the Azerbaijani border.

"This report marks the largest consensus ever reached among scientists that global warming poses problems for the future," said Bolin. The panel spent two years preparing the document under the auspices of the U.N. Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization.

"As far as effective action and impacts, the report is weak," said Jeremy Legge, science director for Greenpeace International.

"But the significant achievement is that finally the United States has acknowledged the global warming is actually happening."

The United States, the largest producer of carbon dioxide, has blocked any international agreement to place mandatory restrictions on emissions of gases which lead to the "greenhouse effect."

Carbon dioxide, produced from the burning of fossil fuels such as oil and coal, helps trap warmth around the Earth, turning the atmosphere into a "greenhouse," scientists say.

Fred Berthold, head of the National Science Foundation and the 25-person U.S. delegation at the climate conference, said, "we are certain of the following: emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases."

He added, "all things being equal, it (the greenhouse effect) might lead to global warming."

Berthold said there is still uncertainty about the magnitude of the problem, and questions about when and where the effects would be felt.

But Berthold admitted late Thursday night that U.S. acceptance of global warming theories in this document were a formal commitment and a step forward in policy.

Bolin agreed that the rate of heating, the magnitude and regional distribution are unclear.

The scientific assessment lays the foundation for future negotiations on how to halt global warming.

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The truth is that Philippine democracy today is in imminent and mortal danger of being overthrown."

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"He is a possible suspect. Where he fits in on the hierarchy of suspects, I don't know," said

Darnell.

Police said the killer appears to be methodical and chooses his victims carefully, focusing on petite brunettes with shoulder-length hair.

Police have said three of the victims died from multiple stab wounds and that their bodies were mutilated. Autopsies have not been completed on the bodies of two students found Tuesday, Marni said.

Police have given few details about the mutilations. But the St. Petersburg Times reported that pieces of flesh from the first three victims were missing.

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